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A brief Account of the

PRIVILEDGES and IMMUNITIES

Granted by the K. France - Louis XIV.

French King

TO THE

EAST-INDIA Company, &c. of *FRANCE*,

For the Encouraging and Improving of
Trade and Navigation.

Together with an Extract of a *Declaration*
which the said KING hath put forth for the
Encouragement of Trade in General.

LONDON,
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A brief Account of the Priviledges and Immunities granted by the *French King* to the *East-India* Company, &c. of *France*, for the encouraging and improving of Trade and Navigation.

The *French King* by Edict hath granted,

1. THat all that will transplant themselves into the *French* Colonies in the *East-Indies*, shall be accommodated with all conveniencies whatsoever in the Companies Ships.

2. That upon their arrival there, Lands in such and such Proportions should be set out to them, as their own proper Inheritance for ever.

3. That as they should pay no more than a small Acknowledgement for the said Lands, at so much *per* Acre, so that besides the small Rent, they should be charged with no other Publique Duty or Tax whatsoever.

4. That beside the Provisions by Sea, the said Planters might be furnished by the said Company, with all sorts of Goods, Cloaths, Tools, and other

neceſſaries for Husbandry or Traffick, at very moderate Rates, if deſired by them.

5. That three years time ſhould be allowed the ſaid Planters for re-payment of the ſaid Charges and Goods, the ſame to be ſatisfied to the ſaid Company out of the Commodities, produced in the ſaid Country, and not otherwiſe.

6. That all that ſhall continue to live there eight years, ſhall be accounted Maſters of their Trades, in all the Cities in *France*.

7. That all that are born there of *French*, and all other the Natives turning to the *Roman* Religion, and ſubmitting to the *French King*, ſhall have the Priviledges of Natives of *France*, in *France*.

That the ſaid New Company having ſent away their firſt Fleet, do in the next place take care to ſettle their own Government in *France*, ordering the chief Chamber of Direction to be at *Paris*; as aſſiſtant to which there are appointed five other Chambers, *viz.* one at *Lyons*, one at *Roan*, one at *Nants*, one at *Haure de grace*, and one at *Bourdeaux*.

That for the encouragement of the ſaid chief Chamber of Direction at *Paris*, it is further agreed that the Seiur *Colbert*, ſhall preſide on behalf of the King, and of his Intereſt in the ſaid Stock, and that there ſhall be one and twenty other Directors, beſides the ſaid Preſident, and that the Body of the

ſaid

ſaid Directors, ſhall be divided into three diſtinct Colledges, as they call them.

One to have the charge of all Letters, and Diſpatches, with the general overſight of the Principal Officers, that they ſee they fail not in their reſpective Charges and Duties. As alſo to ſee conſtantly that all Orders, made at any general Meeting, be duly obſerved, and put into execution.

The ſecond Colledge is to take the whole care of buying in all ſorts of Stoves, as alſo to take care for the building, fitting and ſetting forth of ſuch Fleets and Shipping, as ſhould be appointed by the ſaid Company to be built, and ſent into the *Indies*, together with the care of providing, accommodating and ſupplying ſuch Paſſengers, and ſending ſuch Officers thither, as ſhall be thought fit.

The third Colledge is to have the management and principal care of all the Merchantile part, relating to the buying of all ſuch Commodities as ſhould be ſent into the *Indies*, as alſo to the carefull receiving, ſtoring and diſpoſing of all ſuch Commodities as ſhould be brought home in return from thence.

All which Directors when choſen, are to continue in their reſpective capacities for ſeven years.

The Sum of the ſaid Companies Priviledges are theſe.

1. THat they ſhall have the ſole power of Navigation and Commerce both into the *Eaſt-Indies*, and into the *South-Sea*, for the term of 50 years, commencing from *March* 1665. at which time the firſt Fleet that went thither ſet Sayl.

2. That they ſhall have the Soveraign Lordſhip, Dominion and Propriety of the whole Iſle of *Madagaſcar*, with the Right and Propriety of all ſuch Mines or other Commodities, as ſhall be found or produced there.

3. That they ſhall have the like Propriety, Dominion and Rights of Soveraignty, in and over all ſuch Iſlands, Countreys, Provinces, Forts or other places, which they ſhall either Conquer or Purchaſe from others, or that they ſhall find deſerted or poſſeſſed only of *Barbarians*.

4. That the ſaid Company ſhall therefore have the ſole power of ſending, appointing and deputing of all ſuch Officers, and Judges, as ſhall be thought neceſſary in any of the ſaid places, for the plenary Execution of Soveraign Juſtice, and the ſame again to remove and diſplace at pleaſure, and as they ſhall ſee occaſion,

5. That the ſaid Company ſhall have power to ſend

ſend or depute Perſons in the quality of Ambaſſadors in the name of the King of *France*, to treat or to reſide in any Court of the Kings or Potententates of the *Eaſt-Indies* or of the *South-Seas*.

6. That the ſaid Company ſhall have power therefore upon all occaſion to enter into League or to declare War with any of the ſaid Kings or Potentates, and to do all other Act or Acts, which they ſhall think beſt or judge moſt to be of advantage to the ſaid Commerce.

7. That they ſhall have power therefore to arm and ſet out ſuch a number of Men of War, to take the Goods and Subjects of ſuch Princes, as they ſhall have an open difference with, and to make Prize of them, and to convert the benefit of the ſaid Prizes to their own uſe.

8. The King promiſeth to defend the ſaid Company againſt all perſons, and to employ the force of his Arms to maintain them in their Liberties, and to protect them in their going and returning from the *Indies*, with ſuch a number of Men of War, as the Company ſhall need, not only upon the Coaſts of *Europe* and *Affrica*, but even in the *Indies* it ſelf.

9. Accordingly the King ſpares them three Men of War to go out with the ſecond Fleet, which is to conveigh them into the bottom of the *Indies* it ſelf.

10. The-

10. The King grants them to be furniſhed with Salt for their Proviſions, without any Tax or Exciſe laid upon it, paying only the Merchants price.

11. The King further promiſeth and engageth, that during the whole time of the Companies Charter or Grant, no Cuſtom or Duty ſhall be required of them, upon their Entry or importing of any Timber, or of any Iron or Cannon, or of any Cordage or Ammunition of War, or of any other thing relating to ſtores for Shipping, or the neceſſary Building, Furniſhing, Victualing or Equipping of them.

12. He further promiſeth that all Merchandize and Commodities whatſoever, that ſhall be brought from the *Indies*. which ſhall be again exported out of *France* into any other Country, ſhall be wholly exempted from the Payment of any Duty and Cuſtom for it, either outwards or inwards.

13. The King further promiſeth that for the better ſupport of the extraordinary charge of the ſaid Company, he will out of his own bounty, allow the Sum of 50 Livers upon every Tun of Goods that ſhall be exported by the ſaid Company into the *Indies* towards the Diſcharge or Payment of their freight outwards, and 75 Livers more for every Tun of Goods that ſhall be imported by the ſaid Company into *France* towards the defraying the

the charge of their freight home, and that this he will do conſtantly whatever the Sum be, that it ſhall amount unto; which Sums ſhall be therefore paid by the King from time to time to the Caſheire General of the ſaid Company.

14. That over and above the ſaid Sum he doth engage to lend or advance to the ſaid Company 3 Millions of Livers, as the fifth part of the whole Stock, which he promiſeth to ſpare them freely alſo, and without any conſideration for it for Ten years.

At the expiration of which time, they are therefore to return it; unleſs that the Capital Stock it ſelf, do through any accident extraordinary come to a loſs, and in that caſe the King is pleaſed that the loſs ſhall not fall upon the Company, that have ſo freely engaged upon the Invitation, but only upon himſelf.

15. For the Encouragement of the Directors of the ſaid Company he promiſeth alſo, that all they who ſhall acquit themſelves and their ſervice to the ſatisfaction of the ſaid Company, ſhall receive from him thoſe marks of Honour, as ſhall deſcend to their Poſterities reſpectively for ever.

16. For the encouragement of Perſons to Subſcribe, he doth engage that if any ſtranger, who is the Subject of any forraign Prince ſhall enter into the ſaid Company, and ſhall pay in 20 thouſand

Livers, ſhall be eſteemed as a Native of *France*, and ſhall enjoy *ipſo facto* the Priviledges of a Native, without any need of further Letters of Naturalization, and their Heirs or Kindred though ſtrangers ſhall inherit all their Eſtate in that Kingdom.

17. He further engageth that no ſuch Sum whatever, that ſhall be ſubſcribed and paid into the ſaid Stock, ſhall be at all lyable to be ſeized upon, even though there ſhould be Wars declared, between the ſaid King, and the Prince of that Country of which he is a Subject.

18. That all ſuch Officers of *France*, as ſhould ſubſcribe 20 thouſand Livers to the ſaid Stock, ſhould be diſpenſed by that Act of theirs, with their reſidence in the reſpective places of their eſtabliſhment, and ſhall not be obliged to the ſame ſtrictneſs of duty as is required of all, by the ſaid Kings Edicts.

19. That all ſuch as ſhall ſubſcribe 800 Livers to the ſaid Stock ſhall be free of any City in *France*, ſave *Paris*, *Roan*, *Bourdeaux* and *Bayone*, and all that ſhall ſubſcribe 20000 Livers ſhall be free of thoſe Cities alſo.

20. That none having any Stock in the ſaid Company of what proportion ſoever, ſhall be lyable to have it ſeized by any Creditor, nor ſhall any Wages due to any that ſerves the ſaid Company be lyable to the Arreſt of any Company.

21. That

21. That all Contracts whatſoever, made by any private Perſons with the ſaid Company, either for buying of Goods from, or ſelling of Goods to the Company, ſhall be made good by the ſaid Perſons *bona fide* without any colluſion, and that no manner of protection ſhall be allowed to the ſaid perſons, to the prejudice or defrauding the ſaid Company.

All which Priviledges with many other Covenants, being ſigned and conſented unto by the King, are ſent to the Parliament to be Regiſtred and confirmed, which is accordingly done and then publiſhed.

An Extract of a Declaration *which the* French King *hath put forth for the encouragement of Trade in general; wherein he doth engage himſelf,*

1. TO allow to all Merchants, and to any others that ſhall for the future build any Veſſel in *France* amounting to a hundred Tuns, and from thence to two hundred Tuns, the ſum of five Livers upon every Tun, towards the defraying of the charge of the ſaid Veſſel in the building of her; and if the ſaid Veſſel ſhall be above two hundred Tuns, he promiſeth to allow ſix Livers *per* Tun towards the building of it: That is to ſay, one thouſand eight hundred Livers for every Ship of three hundred

Tuns, and ſo proportionably to that rate for all that ſhall be bigger.

2. He promiſeth to allow four Livers *per* Tun, towards the recompencing any that ſhall buy any Veſſels from any Foreigners, and bring them into *France:* Provided that the Veſſel ſo bought do all of it belong to *Frenchmen*, and that no Stranger or Foreigner have part of it.

3. He engageth to allow every Veſſel that is upward of an hundred Tuns, and doth belong wholly to *Frenchmen*, and that ſhall ſail wholly with *Frenchmen* into the *Baltick-Sea*, or to any part of *Norway*, or into any part of *Moſcovia*, two Livers upon every Tun that the ſaid Ship ſhall carry, to be paid conſtantly for every Voyage ſhe ſhall make into thoſe parts.

4. He further Engageth that every Maſter or Commander of a Ship which ſhall carry any Perſons into *Canada* or *New found Land*, or into any other place where *French* Colonies are, or may be eſtabliſhed ſhall be allowed five Livers for every man, and three Livers for every woman they ſhall ſo carry.

That for the Diſcharging of all theſe Sums a Fundus ſhall be raiſed conſtantly upon the firſt of *January* every year of 3000000 Livers, and a Commiſſary eſtabliſhed in the Principal Cities of every Province for the Payments of them.

He further Ordains that for the better improve-

ment of the Commerce of the said *French* Nation, that the principal Merchants of the several Cities of *Dunkirke*, *Caldis*, *Abbivile*, *Amiens*, *Diepe*, *Havre de graee*, *Roan*, St. *Malos*, *Nants*, *Rochel*, *Bourdeaux*, *Bayone*, *Tours*, *Narbonne*, *Arles*, *Marcellis*, *Tholoone* and *Lyons* shall meet once a year, in the respective Town Halls, of the said Cities, *viz.* upon the first day of *January*, and shall there from time to time choose two of the most experienced Merchants among them whose names (being so chosen) they shall transmit to the *Seiur Colbert*, that out of them the King shall choose such a number, as he shall think fit for the several Provinces of *Picardy*, *Normandy*, *Brettany*, *Tours*, *Poictou*, *Xontoignes Guinne*, *Languedoc*, *Provence* and *Lyons* to reside at Court for a year, and to hold during their respective residence, a Correspondency constantly with the Merchants of the said several Provinces, committed to their charge for the better information of the King of what ever shall be found requisite for the increase or establishment of the Trade of that Nation.

The King further enjoyneth, that all the Merchants so yearly chosen shall once a year, *viz.* on the 20 day of *June* meet in three several Assemblies in some of the said capital Cities, at which assemblies the Master of Requests for the said City, or some such whom the King shall depute shall be present

ſent, and in theſe Aſſemblies, the State of the Commerce, Trade and Manufactories of the reſpective Provinces ſhall be repreſented. The Cauſes of the decay or Diminution of any of theſe ſhall be examined, and the means for reſtoring the ſaid Trades or Manufactures deliberated, and the Reſolve upon the whole ſhall be orderly digeſted and ſent up to *Seiur Colbert*, to Report to the King, that he may give ſuch Order therein as ſhall be meet.

FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM